

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An air filter assembly comprising:

(a) a housing including an air inlet, an air outlet, a spacer wall separating said housing into a filtering chamber and a clean air chamber; said spacer wall including a first air flow aperture therein;

(b) a first filter construction positioned in air flow communication with said first air flow aperture in said spacer wall; said first filter construction including an extension of a pleated filter media composite defining a filter construction inner clean air chamber;

(i) said first filter construction being oriented with said filter inner clean air chamber in air flow communication with said spacer wall first air flow aperture;

(ii) said pleated filter media composite including a substrate, the substrate having an efficiency greater than 11% when measured according to ASTM-1215-89, with 0.78 μ monodisperse polystyrene spherical particles, at 20 fpm (6.1 meters/min), a permeability of about 2 to 900 meters-min⁻¹, a basis weight not greater than 200 grams-m⁻² and a thickness of 25 to 800 microns, the substrate at least partially covered by a layer of fine fiber having a thickness of about 1 - 8 times the fine fiber diameter;

(A) said fiber comprising a diameter of about 0.01 to 0.5 microns that after exposure for a test period of 16 hours to test conditions of 140°F air and a relative humidity of 100% retains greater than 30% of the fiber unchanged for filtration purposes

(c) a pulse-jet cleaning system oriented to direct a pulse of air into said filter construction inner clean air chamber.

2. (Original) An air filter assembly according to claim 1 wherein the fine fiber comprises a polymer.
3. (Previously presented) An air filter assembly according to claim 2 wherein the polymer comprises a condensation polymer.
4. (Previously presented) An air filter assembly according to claim 2 wherein the polymer comprises an addition polymer.
5. (Original) An air filter assembly according to claim 4 wherein the addition polymer comprises a polyvinyl halide polymer,
6. (Original) An air filter assembly according to claim 4 wherein the addition polymer comprises a polyvinylidene halide polymer.
7. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 6 wherein the polyvinylidene halide comprises polyvinylidene chloride.
8. ((Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 6 wherein the polyvinylidene halide comprises polyvinylidene fluoride.
9. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 4 wherein the polymer comprises a polyvinylalcohol.
10. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 9 wherein the polyvinylalcohol is crosslinked with about 1 to 40 wt.% of a crosslinking agent.
11. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 10 wherein the crosslinked polyvinylalcohol is crosslinked using a polyacrylic acid having a molecular weight of about 1000 to 3000.

12. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 10 wherein the crosslinked polyvinylalcohol is crosslinked using a melamine-formaldehyde resin having a molecular weight of about 1000 to 3000.

13. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 3 comprising a condensation polymer, other than a copolymer formed from a cyclic lactam and a C₆₋₁₀ diamine monomer or a C₆₋₁₀ diacid monomer, and a resinous additive comprising an oligomer having a molecular weight of about 500 to 3000 and an aromatic character wherein the additive is miscible in the condensation polymer, the additive forming a protective coating on the fine fiber.

14. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 3 comprising a condensation polymer, other than a copolymer formed from a cyclic lactam and a C₆₋₁₀ diamine monomer or a C₆₋₁₀ diacid monomer, and a resinous additive comprising an oligomer having a molecular weight of about 500 to 3000 and an alkyl phenolic aromatic character wherein the additive is miscible in the condensation polymer, the additive forming a protective coating on the fine fiber.

15. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the polymer is a component of a solution, the solution comprising a major proportion of an aqueous alcoholic solvent and about 3 to 30 wt% of the polymeric composition.

16. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a polyalkylene terephthalate.

17. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 16 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a polyalkylene naphthalate.

18. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 16 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a polyethylene terephthalate.

19. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a nylon polymer comprising a homopolymer having repeating units derived from a cyclic lactam.

20. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 19 wherein the nylon polymer is combined with a second nylon polymer, the second nylon polymer differing in molecular weight or monomer composition.

21. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 19 wherein the nylon polymer is combined with a second nylon polymer, the second nylon polymer comprising an alkoxy alkyl modified polyamide.

22. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 20 wherein the second nylon polymer comprises a nylon copolymer.

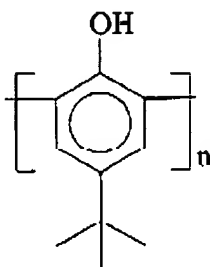
23. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 20 wherein the polymers are treated to form a single polymeric composition as measured by a differential scanning calorimeter showing a single phase material.

24. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 23 wherein the copolymer and the second polymer are heat treated.

25. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 24 wherein the copolymer and the second polymer are heat treated to a temperature less than the lower melting point of the copolymer.

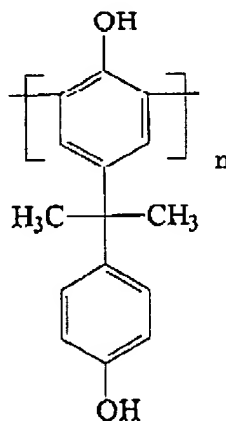
26. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the additive comprises an oligomer comprising tertiary butyl phenol.

27. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 26 wherein the additive comprises an oligomer comprising:



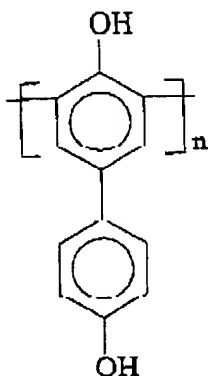
28. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the resin comprises an oligomer comprising bis-phenol A.

29. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 28 wherein the additive comprises an oligomer comprising:



30. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the resin comprises an oligomer comprising dihydroxy biphenyl.

31. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 30 wherein the additive comprises an oligomer comprising:



32. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the additive comprises a blend of the resinous additive and a fluoropolymer.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 3 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a polyurethane polymer.

36. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a blend of a polyurethane polymer and a polyamide polymer.

37. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 36 wherein the polyamide polymer comprises a nylon.

38. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 37 wherein the nylon comprises a nylon homopolymer, a nylon copolymer or mixtures thereof.

39. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the condensation polymer comprises an aromatic polyamide.

40. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a reaction product of a diamine monomer and poly(m-phenylene isophthalamide).

41. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 36 wherein the polyamide comprises a reaction product of a diamine and a poly(p-phenylene terephthalamide).

42. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a polybenzimidazole.

43. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 14 wherein the condensation polymer comprises a polyarylate.

44. (Previously presented) The air filter assembly of claim 43 wherein the polyarylate polymer comprises a condensation polymerization reaction product between bis-phenol-A and mixed phthalic acids.

45. (Original) An air filter assembly according to claim 1 further including:

(a) a first Venturi element mounted in said spacer wall first air flow aperture and positioned to project into said first filter construction inner clean air chamber; and wherein

(i) said pulse-jet cleaning system includes a first blowpipe oriented to direct a pulse of air into said first Venturi element from said clean air chamber and toward said first filter construction.

46. (Original) An air filter assembly according to claim 1 wherein:

(a) said first filter construction includes a first end cap having a central aperture; said extension of filter media being embedded within said first end cap.

47. (Original) An air filter assembly according to claim 1 wherein:

(a) said first filter construction includes first and second filter elements in axial alignment;

(i) said extension of a pleated filter media composite comprising a first extension of media in said first filter element and a second extension of media in said second filter element.

48. (Original) An air filter assembly according to claim 1 wherein:

(a) said spacer wall includes a second air flow aperture therein; and wherein the assembly further includes:

(i) a second filter construction positioned in air flow communication with said second air flow aperture in said spacer wall; said second filter construction including an extension of a pleated filter media composite defining a second filter construction inner clean air chamber;

(A) said second filter construction being oriented with said second filter inner clean air chamber in air flow communication with said spacer wall second air flow aperture; and

(B) said pleated filter media composite of said second filter construction including a substrate at least partially covered by a layer of fine fiber.

49. (Previously presented) An air filter assembly according to claim 1 wherein:

(a) said spacer wall includes a second air flow aperture therein; and wherein the assembly further includes:

(i) a second filter construction positioned in air flow communication with said second air flow aperture in said spacer wall; said second filter construction including an extension of a pleated filter media composite defining a second filter construction inner clean air chamber;

(A) said second filter construction being oriented with said second filter inner clean air chamber in air flow communication with said spacer wall second air flow aperture; and

(B) said pleated filter media composite of said second filter construction including a substrate at least partially covered by a layer of fine fiber;

(ii) a second Venturi element mounted in said spacer wall second air flow aperture and positioned to project into said second filter construction inner clean air chamber; and

(iii) a second blowpipe oriented to direct a pulse of air into said second Venturi element from said clean air chamber and toward said second filter construction.

50. (Currently amended) A method for filtering air; the air having a temperature of at least 140°F; the method comprising:

(a) directing the air through an inlet of a housing and into a filtering chamber; the housing including a spacer wall separating the filtering chamber from a clean air chamber; the spacer wall including a first air flow aperture therein;

(b) after directing the air into the filtering chamber, directing the air through an extension of a pleated filter media composite of a first filter construction and into a filter construction inner clean air chamber; the first filter construction being positioned in air flow communication with the first air flow aperture in the spacer wall; the extension of a pleated filter media composite defining the filter construction inner clean air chamber;

- (i) the first filter construction being oriented with the filter inner clean air chamber in air flow communication with the spacer wall first air flow aperture;
- (ii) the media composite including a substrate, the substrate having an efficiency greater than 11% when measured according to ASTM-1215-89, with 0.78 μ monodisperse polystyrene spherical particles, at 20 fpm (6.1 meters/min), a permeability of about 2 to 900 meters-min⁻¹, a basis weight not greater than 200 grams-m⁻² and a thickness of 25 to 800 microns, the substrate at least partially covered by a layer said layer comprising fine fiber comprising a fiber with a diameter of about 0.1 to 0.5 microns, the layer having a thickness of about 1 - 8 times the fine fiber diameter, such that after exposure for a test period of 16 hours to test conditions of 140°F air and a relative humidity of 100% retains greater than 30% of the fiber unchanged for filtration purposes; and
- (c) after directing the air through an extension of a pleated filter media composite of a first filter construction and into a filter construction inner clean air chamber, directing the air into the clean air chamber and out of the housing.

51. (Original) A method according to claim 50 further including directing a pulse of air into the filter construction inner clean air chamber to at least partially remove particulates collected on the pleated filter media composite.

52. (Original) A method according to claim 51 wherein said step of directing a pulse of air into the filter construction inner clean air chamber to at least partially remove particulates collected on the pleated filter media composite includes directing the pulse of air into a Venturi element mounted to project into the first filter construction inner clean air chamber.

53. (Original) A method according to claim 50 wherein said housing spacer wall includes a plurality of extensions of pleated filter media composites of a plurality of filter constructions wherein each of the extensions of a pleated filter media composites define a respective filter construction inner clean air chamber.

54. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 50 further including directing a pulse of air into each of the filter construction inner clean air chamber to at least partially remove particulates collected on each of the pleated filter media composites.

55. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 51 wherein said step of directing a pulse of air into each of the filter construction inner clean air chamber to at least partially remove particulates collected on each of the pleated filter media composite includes directing the pulse of air into a plurality of Venturi elements each mounted to project into a respective filter construction inner clean air chamber.

56. (Canceled)